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*Southern District of New York*

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**MOUNT VERNON WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY FOR ROLE IN**  
**IMMIGRATION FRAUD CONSPIRACY**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York announced that JENNIFER ROWE pleaded guilty today to conspiring to commit visa fraud and mail fraud. According to the Superseding Information and other documents filed in Manhattan federal court, as well as statements made during ROWE's guilty plea proceeding:

ROWE conspired with others in 2004 and 2005 to commit a massive immigration fraud by telling non-immigrant aliens that they were eligible for amnesty under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1986 (the "Amnesty Program"). ROWE and other co-conspirators convinced non-immigrant aliens to give ROWE their passports and payments of between \$1,000 and \$5,000, in exchange for the promise of permanent residency and eventual citizenship. In reality, these non-immigrant aliens were not eligible for the Amnesty Program.

ROWE advertised her services in certain immigrant communities in the New York City area, falsely promising that she could secure permanent residency for individuals. After receiving thousands of dollars, passports and other documentation from non-immigrant aliens, ROWE and her co-conspirators submitted false Amnesty Program applications to the United States Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services on behalf of many of these individuals. None of the Amnesty Program applications that were submitted were accepted.

ROWE, 51, of Mount Vernon, New York, faces a maximum sentence of ten years' imprisonment. ROWE is scheduled to be sentenced on January 6, 2009 before United States District Judge Paul A. Crotty.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security's New York Citizenship and Immigration Services Fraud Detection Unit in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys EDWARD Y. KIM is in charge of the prosecution.

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